

Message Text

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62/53

ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/CAR:DCNORTON

APPROVED BY: THE SECRETARY

ARA:WDROGERS

ARA/PLC:AWILLIAMS

ARA:WHLUERS

L/PM:TBGREK

ARA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER

PM/SAS:SWINSHIP

ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

S/S-MR. ORTIZ

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P R 081434Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168684

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINE 5 PARA 1 SUBPARA 3)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, GY, US

SUBJECT: ASSURANCES ON DESTABILIZATION AND REPLY TO FONMIN
WILLS' INQUIRY ON FMS SALES TO SURINAM

REF: STATE 139006 (EXDIS)

1. PLEASE TRANSMIT FOLLOWING LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO
FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS

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BEGIN TEXT

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

IT WAS A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAIN ON JUNE 4 AND TO HAVE A REWARDING DISCUSSION ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST. AS I PROMISED, I HAVE REVIEWED THE QUESTION YOU RAISED ON MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SURINAM AND WISH TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

ON APRIL 14, 1976, PRESIDENT FORD SIGNED PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION NO. 76-12 MAKING SURINAM ELIGIBLE TO PURCHASE DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES UNDER THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT. THE REASON FOR TAKING THIS ACTION WAS TO RESPOND TO A DUTCH REQUEST THAT THEY BE ALLOWED TO TRANSFER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SURINAM SOME MILITARY EQUIPMENT ORIGINALLY PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES TO THE NETHERLANDS. THE MEANS FOR ARRANGING TRANSFER OF THIS EQUIPMENT WAS BY ADDING SURINAM TO THE FMS ELIGIBILITY LIST. THIS EQUIPMENT CONSISTS OF RECOILLESS RIFLES AND GENERATORS VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY DOLS 12,000.

IN OUR DISCUSSION YOU INDICATED CONCERN ABOUT THE LANN LANGUAGE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION, NAMELY THAT THE SALE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SURINAM "WILL STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES." SUCH LANGUAGE IS TECHNICALLY REQUIRED FOR ALL FMS DETERMINATIONS, AND IT OF COURSE HAS NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THE CASE OF SURINAM.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAD ASSUMED, IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY SPECIFIC REQUEST, THAT GUYANA WAS NOT INTERESTED IN BEING INCLUDED ON THE FMS ELIGIBILITY LIST. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE NOTE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN RESPONSIVE TO SEVERAL GUYANESE REQUESTS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. ADDITIONALLY, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS REGULARLY APPROVED THE ISSUANCE OF LICENSES FOR THE EXPORT OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION PURCHASED COMMERCIALY IN THE UNITED STATES.

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CONTINUING OUR PAST POLICY, WE WILL CONSIDER SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR MILITARY PURCHASES FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

IN CLOSING, MR. MINISTER, LET ME ASSURE YOU AGAIN, AS I DID ON JUNE 4, THAT THERE IS NO SUBSTANCE TO THE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS INVOLVED IN TRYING TO UNDERMINE YOUR GOVERNMENT, NOR WOULD WE IN ANY WAY PROMOTE SUCH ACTIVITIES. IT CONTINUES TO BE OUR POLICY OF MY GOVERNMENT TO RESPECT FULLY THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF GUYANA.

IF YOU THINK IT USEFUL, I HAVE NO OBJECTION WHATEVER TO

YOUR MAKING PUBLIC THE FOREGOING COMMENTS ON THE "DESTABILIZATION" CHARGES WHICH SOME HAVE LEVELED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

LET ME SAY AGAIN THAT I ENJOYED SEEING YOU JUNE 4. I HOPE YOU SHARE MY VIEW THAT OUR TALKS WERE WORTHWHILE AND THAT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN US ON A FRANK AND CANDID BASIS SHOULD CONTINUE.

BEST REGARDS,

HENRY A. KISSINGER. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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